

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KATHMA 04122 261141Z

53 40

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 EB-03

EUR-10 EA-13 AEC-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 ACDA-10 PRS-01 SCI-03 /094 W

----- 066225

R 261043Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6443

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 4122

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: PURPORTED SALE OFFER OF URANIUM-235

1. SENIOR OFFICER OF EMBESY WAS RECENTLY APPROACHED BY NEPALESE BUSINESSMAN, NAME GIVEN AS J.C. THAKUR, WHO SAID HE COULD OBTAIN URANIUM-235 "FOR SALE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT." WHILE EMBASSY HAS HAD SOME VAGUE INDICATIONS IN PAST OF SOME FORM OF URANIUM BEING OFFERED FOR SALE IN NEPAL, THIS IS FIRST APPROACH WE HAVE EXPERIENCED FROM INDIVIDUAL WHO GIVES SOME APPEARANCE OF HAVING ACCESS TO SOME KIND OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL. WE FRANKLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND DELHI AND WASHINGTON MIGHT THINK RELEVANT AS WELL AS WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON PROCEDURE WE SHOULD FOLLOW IN THIS MATTER. WE HAVE NO LOCAL INFORMATION ON J.C. THAKUR.

2. THAKUR PRESENTS HIMSELF AS BROTHER OF NEPAL'S AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, CLAIMS HE CAN DELIVER TWO TO THREE KILOS OF URANIUM-235 PER MONTH AT PRICE OF \$40,000 PER KILO. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO SOURCE, HE INDICATED THAT U-235 WOULD BE SMUGGLED OUT TO HIM FROM NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES IN BOMBAY AREA. HE SAYS HE IS WILLING AND ABLE PROVIDE SAMPLE FOR ANALYSIS AND HAS BRIEFLY SHOWN EMBASSY OFFICER SMALL AMOUNT OF BROWN SUBSTANCE,

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WHICH HE CLAIMS IS U-235, AND WHICH HE CARRIES IN SMALL

PLASTIC VIAL. THAKUR SAYS IF USG "NOT INTERESTED," HE WILL  
OFFER URANIUM TO OTHER EMBASSIES IN KATHMANDU, MENTIONING  
GERMAN, CHINESE, AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES.

3. THAKUR MAY BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY OFFICER AGAIN IN NEXT  
FEW DAYS. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING WHETHER WE SHOULD ATTEMPT  
DEVELOP ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PURPORTED SOURCE OF THIS  
MATERIAL, AND WHETHER WE SHOULD SEEK SECURE SAMPLE. IF SAMPLE  
DESIRED. PLEASE INSTRUCT ON TOXICITY CONSIDERATIONS, IF ANY,  
AND PROPER WRAPPING PROCEDURES.  
CARGO

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMUGGLING, CRIMES, NUCLEAR FUELS, URANIUM 235, THEFTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973KATHMA04122  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS CARGO  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** KATHMANDU  
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**Line Count:** 73  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

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30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PURPORTED SALE OFFER OF URANIUM-235  
**TAGS:** TECH, NP, IN, US, (THAKUR, J C)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005